a switching circuit which switches between a first path and a second path, said first path outputting data input from a first external device to said communication circuit, and said second path outputting electronic money data from said data processor to said communication circuit; and

a control circuit which controls said data processor, said communication circuit, and said switching circuit;

wherein, said control circuit controls said switching circuit to switch from said first path to said second path at a time of transaction of electronic money information, and

wherein said control circuit controls said switching circuit to switch from the first path to the second path, said first external device is prevented from outputting data to said communication circuit.

36. (Amended) A terminal device used in an electronic money system, comprising:

a first terminal device including an input device which enters data from a first external device, a communication circuit which communicates with a second external device through a public line, and a light receiving device which receives light signals;

a second terminal device including, a data processor which processes data in an IC card storing electronic money information, a light emitting device which generates light signals for sending to said first terminal device, and a control circuit which controls said data processor and said communication circuit; and

a switching circuit in said first terminal device, which switches between a first path and a second path, said first path outputting data input from said first external device to said communication circuit, and said second path outputting electronic money data from said data processor of said second terminal input through said light receiving device to said communication circuit;

wherein said control circuit in said second terminal device controls said switching circuit to switch from said first path to said second path at a time of transaction of electronic money, and

wherein said control circuit in said second terminal device controls said switching circuit to switch from the first path to the second path, said first external device is prevented from outputting data to said communication circuit.

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37. (Amended) A first terminal device used in an electronic money system having a second terminal device

including, a data processor which processes data in an IC card storing electronic money information, a light emitting device which generates light signals for sending to said first terminal device, and a control circuit which controls said data processor, said first terminal device comprising:

an input device which enters data from a first external device;

a communication circuit which communicates with a second external device through a public line;

a light receiving device which receives light signals;

a switching circuit, which switches between a first path and a second path, said first path outputting data input from a first external device to said communication circuit, and said second path outputting electronic money data from said data processor of said second terminal device input through said light receiving device to said communication circuit;

wherein said switching circuit switches from said first path to said second path at a time of transaction of electronic money according to a control signal from said control circuit in said second terminal device, and

wherein when said switching circuit switches from said first path to said second path, said first external

device is prevented from outputting data to said communication circuit.

--38. A terminal device according to claim 23, wherein electronic money can be transmitted along said second path regardless of the operation state of said first external device.

--39. A terminal device according to claim 36, wherein electronic money can be transmitted along said second path regardless of the operation state of said first external device.

--40. A terminal device according to claim 37, wherein electronic money can be transmitted along said second path regardless of the operation state of said first external device.

REMARKS

Claims 23, 36 and 37 have been amended. New claims 38-40 have been added. Accordingly, claims 23-40 are currently pending in the application.

In an Office Action mailed October 24, 2000, claim 26 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Jones et al. Claims 23-37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being